

#14/376-01

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. on May 11, 2001.

*Nancy DeRiggi*  
Nancy DeRiggi



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Takeshi KAKINUMA *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/095,365

Filing Date: June 10, 1998

For: SHEET SORTING APPARATUS

Examiner: Linda L. Gray

Group Art Unit: 1734

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to Paper No. 13 mailed April 12, 2001, applicants submit the following remarks:

**REMARKS**

Paper No. 13 states that the amendment filed on March 19, 2001, is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Relying on MPEP §§ 714.02 and 2163.06, Paper No. 13 alleges that applicants were required to specifically point out the support for the amendments to claims 1 and 12. Claim 1 was amended to remove the language identified by the Examiner. This amendment effectively returned claim 1 to the format as originally presented when the application was filed. Therefore,

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